



*Students that feel safe at school perform better academically than students that do not feel safe.*

*The use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs is closely related to reduced attention spans, lower investment in homework, negative attitudes toward school, lower motivation, and increased absenteeism.*

*Students that are threatened with violence on school grounds have lower academic achievement scores than students that have not been threatened with violence.*

The state of Arizona has developed a new way of collecting, tracking and reporting school safety and discipline incident data – Az SAFE. The purpose of Az SAFE is to provide the information educators need to improve the quality and effectiveness of drug and violence prevention programs.

Schools are required to implement a data management system that incorporates the Az SAFE criteria by the 2009-2010 school year. This can be met by using a newly developed web-based system or modules developed by their current SMS vendor. The ADE developed system will be linked to the school's SAIS data, so school personnel will not have to re-key student detail information. Pursuant to Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requirements, individual student detail information will remain confidential and not accessible to the ADE or any other agency outside of the school. The on-line system is available to any interested school for the 2008-2009 school year.

When an incident occurs on campus, to or from campus, or at a school-sponsored event, the system will record individuals involved, types of violations that occurred, time, date, and place of the incident, as well as the corrective actions that were assigned and when they were completed. Data for higher level violations, e.g., weapons possession, that are required by law to be reported to the state, will be submitted to the ADE. Data for lower level violations, e.g., inappropriate language, will stay at the local level. The system will produce a variety of reports that provide school administrators with the information needed for evaluating individual student behavior and the behavior of groups of students, designing school-wide and individual student interventions, improving disciplinary practices, and reporting to district, state, and federal agencies.

The terms used within the system will link to definitions and legal citations, providing staff with clear guidance for recording incidents. The system will also generate automatic notifications for a designated school administrator when follow-up actions are overdue or when a school is legally mandated to contact law enforcement.

The information provided by the system will streamline several data reporting requirements. It will store and report data that is currently reported on the Safe and Drug Free Schools Report [prescribed by PL 107-110 Title IV, Part A, Subpart 1, Sec. 4112(c)(3), Sec. 4141(b) and by ARS 15-814], and the Annual Special Education Data Collection Report [prescribed by PL 108-446, Sec. 602(3)(A) and Sec. 618]. The system will also pre-populate on the school report card the number of incidents that require the contacting of law enforcement, as mandated by ARS 15-746.